

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Ward 6 — Newsletter

JANUARY 11, 2012

A Message from Steve

Remembering January 8th

We start each of our regular sessions with the Pledge of Allegiance. After having been on the UA Mall last Sunday and participating as Congresswoman Giffords led the Pledge for the crowd of several thousand gathered in remembrance, saying it at our Council meetings will forever bring that moving memory back to mind.

The campus memorials began at 3pm in Centennial Hall where Dr. Richard Carmona emceed the event. Senator Mark Udall from Colorado spoke first. His comments were about the need to work in a bi-partisan manner, at all levels of government. The audience was totally on board with his points. Following that, each of the victims of the fatal shootings was honored by speakers who were particularly closely tied in with them. Each of the presentations was touching. Each brought back the great sense of loss that we felt in the immediate aftermath of the shootings. Let us never become complacent in respecting the impact that event had on us as a community. And let us never forget the heroes who literally saved lives in the midst of the event.

The crowd moved outside to the UA Mall and joined a throng who had come for the 6:30 “candle light vigil” (glow tubes). Speakers at this part of the ceremony included our new Mayor, the Secretary of State, the President of the University, Mark Kelly, Dr. Rhee – and as already mentioned, Gabby led the Pledge.

My wife and I stood out among the crowd and I can tell you that everybody around us was deeply moved by the evening. For me, it rekindled the sense of pride I have in this community and brought back memories of how that was enhanced during the early parts of 2011. The spontaneous outpouring of love in the midst of grief was noticed world wide.

Ghandi said that the culture of a community is seen in the hearts and soul of its people. You showed the world what the culture of Tucson is made up of, and it's bound up in the name of the initiative started by Ron Barber, even during his own rehabilitation from the shooting. He founded the Fund for Civility, Respect and Understanding. That title reflects Tucsonans and it was on display yet again last Sunday during the 1-8-11 ceremonies.

Thank you, Ron for all of your work on behalf of the Community and for helping pull together the events that took place on the UA campus last weekend. Also thank



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus
Hotline

243-7999

Environment
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

you to Crystal Kasnoff from University of Arizona Health Network for your countless hours organizing the candlelight vigil.

Up until the ceremonies that were held last weekend, the Rialto had up on their marquee "We love you, Gabby." As a sign of moving forward, they replaced that message with this



We turn the page and are forever changed together.

Basal Cell

One personal item, shared by way of a reminder to do what we're all told to do (and many of us ignore) to live in harmony with the Southwest environment

Wear sunscreen.

If you know much about me, you'll know that I run, ride and work a lot outdoors. That combination points to the need to cover from the UV rays of the sun. Sometimes it takes a 2x4 across the forehead to get my attention. Or, in this case, a scalpel across the bridge of the nose.

If you see me out and about in the near future, you'll see the marks from a Basal cell removal on my nose. Was it preventable? Who knows? Did I do all I should have to avoid it? Nope.

Skin cancer is divided into two major groups: nonmelanoma and melanoma. Basal cell carcinoma is a type of nonmelanoma skin cancer, and is the most common form of cancer in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, 75% of all skin cancers are basal cell carcinomas.

Basal cell carcinoma grows slowly and is painless. A new skin growth that bleeds easily or does not heal well is worth checking to see if it's a Basal cell carcinoma. The majority of Basal cell cancers occur on areas of skin that are regularly exposed to sunlight or other



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Bob Walkup
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

ultraviolet radiation, such as my nose

I'll be going in for what's called Mohs surgery. They'll cut out below the skin until they've found by looking under a microscope that they've gotten all of the cancer. I'm hoping it doesn't look like somebody took a nine iron and left a divot, but we won't know that until they start to dig.

So, I only share this with you to remind you to do what I've now gotten my religion about - sunscreen. I'm not being preachy, just reminding you.

Best Fest

Now some good news. On January 6th it was announced that the Arizona Centennial Commission & 2012 Foundation, will work with the Downtown Tucson Partnership, Second Saturday's, University of Arizona and City of Tucson to co-host a multi event celebration of Arizona's 100th birthday. It's back to being held in Downtown Tucson. The events will take place Feb 10 – 12.

You may recall that because the Foundation's promoters initially refused to work with local event organizers, the celebration was all but dead. Since that time, through the efforts of our new Mayor, the UA External Relations Department and a host of downtown business leaders, the groups have bound together and we will in fact have the event in the heart of our City.

The planned events will include free street concerts, free concerts at the Fox Theatre, fireworks, historical reenactments and the familiar rides and food vendors that make our own 2nd Saturday's so popular.

The Arizona Centennial 2012 Foundation is a 501(c)3 that is supported through private donations. The group is working hard to raise the funds needed to stage a top notch event. Thanks to all who have persevered in working to make this happen.

Rio Mediation

Brief rewind – after the Rio Board filed their \$47M lawsuit against the taxpayers, the Mayor and Council called for mediation in an effort to save you the money of litigation. Recall that over a year ago both the City Council and Rio's Board agreed on the framework for term sheets and an eventual working agreement. Shortly afterwards, Board membership changed, the agreement ran out and the lawsuit arrived in the mailbox.

Because the mediation and our updates on it occur in executive session, it has been frustrating to know what I consider to be wholly unacceptable terms Rio has been demanding and not be in a position to share them with you. It is doubly frustrating because you and I are paying for their attorney's week after week. Every time you hear the Rio Nuevo Board talk about "the City" must pay, realize "the City" is actually you and you will be paying for the Rio Nuevo demands.

With that as a framework, we received another update on Tuesday. I do not believe the new set of demands reflects a serious attempt on their part to move towards resolution. However, I do believe in continuing in mediation for at least the remainder of this month so we can

say the City Council exhausted every avenue in trying to reach an accord.

Initially, I urged and voted to support the mediation. We're now engaged in it, at no small cost to the taxpayers who subsidize everything Rio Nuevo does. We will soon see whether or not this effort was anything but a stall, aimed at setting up the argument that they need to turn to Phoenix and seek a "legislative solution." We will meet at least one more time and reassess our position afterwards.

Does this forestall their cries for a "legislative solution?" Nope. But it makes clear that we are serious about finding a mutually agreeable resolution to the issues that are still between us.

To members of our Legislative Delegation who are paying attention, take note that we have given direction to the City Attorney to draft the guidelines for an incentive District and an incentive tool-kit that we can use to achieve revitalization goals. We are doing this without the respect and/or participation of Rio. We still invite them to take part, but not to extort the taxpayers.

You can be sure that we'll keep an eye on the bills the Legislature drops, and an eye on who the sponsors are. And I'll report back to you if there is a move afoot to shift the locally generated tax dollars that are statutorily supposed to be used in Tucson and spread them around other parts of the State.

For now though, the mediation can still be called a good idea that the Council is serious about. And irrespective of how that turns out, the City is moving ahead with redevelopment efforts and still hoping some combination of the Rio Board is able to get them to come alongside of us and put your tax dollars to work.

Streetcar Construction

The contracts for streetcar construction are about to be awarded. Once they are, we will know better the timing and locations of the work. Clearly there will be disruption. And yet, due to how the segments are being planned, no single part of the work is programmed to take longer than three months under construction.

What is absolutely critical is that while the streets are torn up, every single property owner along the corridor takes advantage of the construction to upgrade and upsize any utility infrastructure they feel they may ever want. Think expansion and consider the fact that if you don't authorize that work to be done before the tracks are laid in front of your property, you may be effectively limiting the potential for expanding your capacity later on.

The contractual agreement with the FTA is that the City is limited in terms of when it can shut down the streetcar for other events. I am still concerned about this blanket restriction when it comes to civic events that last for several hours. But for the purposes of multi-day construction work (which is what utility work would end up being if not done now) the message is to speak now, or forever hold your peace.

The time is past for you to be working this out with the RTA or MainStreet. If you are a property owner along the corridor, you must contact the City now and schedule the infrastructure work that relates to your property. From my experience in project management, I'd recommend you upsize and upgrade (modernize) your infrastructure during the upcoming construction effort. Even if (a big "if") you were allowed to do the work after the tracks are laid, the cost for doing that would easily quadruple. Think outside of the box in terms of possible future uses of your property and get the work on the planning docs that the City is now putting into place.

Contact Max Torres at the Department of Transportation. His number is 791-4371. Don't wait for the City to find you – be proactive or you may lose your voice in this.

HURF Funding

If you've been paying attention to the media and these newsletters, you'll know that over the recent past, the County Administrator and I have shared our differing viewpoints with respect to the funding for the voter approved joint City/County Courthouse. When he and I met last week, I believe we both came away with a shared view that there's a way forward in this project that protects the interests of the City taxpayers and respects the voters expressed desires, not only with this bond item, but with others.

During our conversation, we touched on the issue of the lousy condition of our roads (both in the City, and out in the County and surrounding jurisdictions). Of course, as with so many issues these days, the dialogue eventually returns to funding sources. In this case, we share the mutual dubious distinction of having had our Highway User Revenue Funds swept by the Legislature. Those dollars are earmarked specifically for road repair and maintenance. Realizing that, we became fast friends from the perspective of finding a way to make our displeasure known to our County-wide Legislative Delegation.

With that in mind, we decided it would make the appropriate statement if I were to join with one of the Democrats on the Board of Supervisors, pen an op-ed. for the Arizona Daily Star and send our message on a bi-partisan, and inter-governmental/inter-jurisdictional manner. Supervisor Sharon Bronson and I connected and submitted this piece to the Star.

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/1-11-12hurf.pdf>

Because they ran an op-ed of mine just after Christmas, the Star Editorial Board decided not to run it, but Sharon and I believe it's critical that the op-ed. be seen this week since this is the week the Legislature returns to session, and this is the week we should start to see bills being dropped up there. She and I agree that it would be a wonderfully appropriate move if the legislators who represent this region joined together and worked to get our HURF dollars returned so we can get about the task of road repair and maintenance.

I'm pleased to report that Tucsoncitizen.com and Inside Tucson Business are both going to get the op-ed out this week. It's important that that happen while the legislature is still dropping bills this and next week so somebody up there sees our concerns and has a chance to address them on behalf of the constituents who live in this region.

We have some representation in strategically well placed positions: Transportation subcom-

mittee and in leadership in both houses. It will be worth your while to watch and see which of our delegates steps up to take the lead on what Sharon and I put together.

RTA

In May of last year, we were presented on a consent agenda an IGA with the RTA to fund more work on Silverbell Road. I pulled the item from consent at the time for further discussion.

At issue was the fact that the City is on the hook for cost overruns. Also, there were initial cost estimates for archeological remediation that bumped \$12M. The IGA allocated only \$4M. The initial RTA project cost estimate was \$61M. The IGA funded \$57M. All we had was the promise that the City taxpayers would fund any cost overruns and that we knew neither how much those would be, nor the funding source for the payments. The Council told staff to get us those answers.

On Tuesday, the item reappeared. The only things of significance that had changed in our material was that an earlier reference to the fact that Tucson Water didn't know the impact of the project on their costs had disappeared, and that there is an unwritten agreement that others will help to fund cost overruns. It wasn't clear through what means and at what level.

With those questions still unanswered, I pulled it from the consent agenda again and asked staff to get us the answers. We have no business writing a \$4M check to the RTA for a project with so many unresolved issues. The project resides in Ward 1, but also slops over outside of Tucson city limits. Council Member Romero was also very concerned that we don't have a handle on costs, who pays and from what pot of cash.

We asked staff to take it back, yet again and bring us the answers we need before writing any more checks to the RTA for this project. Maybe the third time will be a charm.

Texting Ban

On Tuesday we held the Texting Ban public hearing. The vast majority of the speakers support this intuitively good idea.

Vice Mayor Uhlich and I asked the City Attorney to use the Phoenix ordinance as a model from which to begin the discussion. That ordinance has several classes of users exempted from the ban. Those include public transit, people calling in dangerous drivers, people calling in police or fire emergencies and some others. None of those struck me as being people who couldn't simply pull off the road and make their calls.

One group that I did want to allow an exemption is emergency response vehicles when responding to an emergency situation. So, with that in mind I asked to add the language to define Personal Digital Assistant (PDA – telephone to us low-end users) to explicitly exempt in-car computers used during an emergency response. Each member of the council addressed specific areas of concern ranging from the sorts of exemptions we should include, the need to make this a primary violation, the level of the fines, and the need for

educational and break-in periods. We asked the City Attorney to draft language consistent with that input within 30 days and bring back a finished product so we can get it adopted.

I would like to thank Sherriff Dupnik for having written a letter in support of our efforts, and to TPD Chief Villasenor for speaking up in support of what we're trying to get done. Recall back to our study session item on this issue that Representative Farley came and spoke in support of the item and that the next day Representative Williams wrote a letter in support.

In this newsletter I have written recently about traffic issues around our City. I'm thankful to my colleagues that we have come together and sent this message to the community that when you're behind the wheel of a chunk of steel, you owe it to your neighbors on the road to pay attention to what you're supposed to be doing.

Budget

This link from a Brookings report was shared with me by Oscar Gandy. It speaks to how our local transit system fares with competitors around the nation

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/1-11-12budget.transit.pdf>

As you can see, we rank pretty highly. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the level of support we give to public transit is not sustainable. The upcoming budget year we are programmed to spend over \$45M from the General Fund for transit. That number will only escalate in coming years and even more so once the streetcar O&M becomes a part of it. It's a huge issue that we have to work collectively to find a solution.

Also related to budget challenges is the level of pension payments we have on the books. I noted last week that public safety pension obligations outstrip our sales tax increased revenues by a factor of three. This is also a huge issue on which we've got to work collectively to find a solution.

We will begin our budget discussions with an approximate \$30M deficit on the table. Looking forward though, we have got to take into consideration the following:

Next fiscal year, we will begin to have to fund some of the police officers who we had funded through grant money allocated by the feds

Next fiscal year, we face the replacement of transportation infrastructure and the need to upgrade that fleet is imminent, and expensive

Next year the State one cent sales tax that was supposed to fund public education will sunset. If it is not extended, expect the State to cost shift more onto localities.

All of us on the Council know that we cannot cut our way out of this budget issue. Refer back to the Rio section and note again our need to put the economic incentives into place and the need to get this Rio Board to get a revelation that the local economy is more impor-

tant than their efforts to advance their own agendas. We have got to grow our tax base. And we have got to put into place ordinances that will catalyze job creation. And each of us has got to enter the upcoming budget talks with no sacred cows in our hip pockets. The cliff we're facing this year gets steeper next year, and the year following that.

You'll be hearing much more on the budget later in the month as we dive into the discussions. The issues with Rio, the legislature, our ability to leverage HURF money with the help of the County – all of this is serious stuff. I know the rest of the Council takes it seriously. We'll see if others decide to play well together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve Kozachik", written in a cursive style.

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

2nd Saturdays Downtown

Saturday, January 12, 4:00 to 9:00pm.

On the Scott Avenue Stage:

4:00pm: [Deceptively Innocent](#)

5:00pm: [Mitzi Cowell & The Valiants](#)

6:15pm: [Ballet Folklorico La Paloma](#)

6:30pm: [Heather “Lil Mama” Hardy Band](#)

7:45pm: **Frisky Frolic Stilt Dance Party**

8:00pm: [The Last Call Girls](#)

On the 5th Avenue Stage (between Congress and Broadway):

Southwest Soul Circuit

4:00pm: **Neamen Lyles** (International Recording Artist), 5:00pm: **Mike Kuhn**,

6:00pm: **Kevin and Tanishia Hamilton**, 7:00pm: **DJ Brock the Barber**, 7:30pm:

Kevin and Tanishia Hamilton

Ronstadt Transit Center @ 6th Ave/Congress St

4:00pm: Ballet Folklorico La Paloma

5:00pm: A Son y Sol

6:00pm: Brass Pandamonium

7:00pm: Sticks & Fingers Ensemble

7:00pm: Magician John Coppin

On the Congress Street Interactive Lot between Stone & Scott: Kids' Corner!

Cinema La Placita Presents: “The Muppet Movie”

Along Downtown's Streets

4:00pm: 7 Pipers Band

4:00pm: Parasol Project Living Statues

7:00pm: Tucson Circus Arts Stilt Walkers

West Side Rides Car Club

And much more!

www.2ndSaturdaysDowntown.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Saturday, January 14, 8:00pm. **“The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute”**. All ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.Friday, January 13, 7:00pm. **Cab Calloway Orchestra**Saturday, January 14, 7:00pm. **Tucson Jazz Institute's Ellington Band** (free admission in conjunction with 2nd Saturdays)Sunday, January 15, 6:30pm. **The Fund for Civility, Respect, and Understanding** presents **Ben Folds and Calexico**. (sold out)

Wednesday, January 18, 7:00pm. "Bicycle Dreams" (film)

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org**The Screening Room**, 127 E. Congress St.Saturday, January 14, 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00pm. **Illusionist Michael Howell****Temple of Music and Art**, 330 S. Scott Ave.**Arizona Theatre Company** presents Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*

Saturday, January 14 through February 4.

Tucson Convention Center**Music Hall**Sunday, January 15, 2:00pm. **Tucson Symphony Orchestra's Classic Series: Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring***.**Exhibit Halls A, B, and C**Saturday, January 14, 8:00am to 8:00pm, and Sunday, January 15, 8:00am to 4:30pm. **Club Cactus Juniors Volleyball****Grand Ballroom**Sunday, January 15, 11:00am to 4:00pm. **Bridal Fair**www.TucsonBridalExpo.com**Ongoing****Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N. Main Ave.Ongoing exhibition, ending Sunday, January 15:**"Who Shot Rock and Roll: A Photographic History, 1955 to the present"**www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org**Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)**, 265 S. Church Ave.Current exhibition: **Armando Miguélez: *Legislate Crazy***Hours: **Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.**www.Moca-Tucson.org**Children's Museum Tucson**, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org**Meet Me at Maynards**

A social walk/run through the Downtown area Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers' Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers' Market

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Science Downtown: Mars + Beyond

Thursday through Monday, 9:00am to 5:00pm (until 6:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and until 9:00pm on 2nd Saturdays). 2-for-1 admission from 5:00 to 9:00pm on 2nd Saturdays.

300 E. Congress St.

<http://www.sciencedowntown.org/index.html>

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.com